



# LAW DAY 2012

NO Courts NO Justice NO Freedom

A supplement to THE DAILY RECORD

# THE DAILY RECORD

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# Law Day 2012: Welcoming ABA President Bill Robinson

By **DENISE M. CHAMPAGNE**

Daily Record Reporter

A lack of knowledge about how government works may be part of the reason the nation's court system is in dire straits.

American Bar Association President William T. "Bill" Robinson III believes that may be what is behind the funding crisis affecting courts and peoples' access to justice.

"We suspect that a major factor is the lack of civics education and knowledge in our country that goes back at least a generation and a half," Robinson said during a recent telephone interview from Washington, D.C. "It's not being taught and the American public, sadly, has lost its understanding and awareness of civics, the role of courts and government."

He said civics is no longer tested under the No Child Left Behind Act and that recent surveys show young people may know every judge on American Idol, but cannot name even one justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, including the chief justice. Robinson said when asked to name the three branches of government, they reply Democrat, Republican and Independent, instead of the correct answer: executive, legislative and judiciary.

The three branches are supposed to have equal power, but Robinson said the

judiciary does not and cannot do much for itself in the position it is in. He said the executive has the power of the military and the legislature controls the nation's finances; the power of the purse.

"All the courts have is the law and the support of the citizens recognizing and respecting the balance of the powers that has characterized our democracy," Robinson said. "Legislators don't hear from the public. The squeaky wheel is not squeaking so our courts are not getting adequate funding."

Robinson is in town this week to help the local bar associations mark Law Day 2012. He and area judges Monday presented a continuing legal education course on "An Independent Judiciary – Vital to Uphold the Rule of Law?" and he is the special keynote speaker today at the annual Law Day luncheon at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Law Day is actually May 1 and traditionally celebrated on or closer to that date, but the local commemoration was moved up this year to accommodate Robinson's schedule.

The national theme is "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom," which epitomizes the challenges facing the justice system and funding issues.

Robinson said access to justice is one of the major issues facing the legal pro-

**“America’s courtrooms must be open to keep the wheels of justice turning.”**

— **American Bar Association President William T. Robinson III**



profession and that access is threatened by reductions to the Legal Services Corp., the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation. LSC lost another \$50 million in funding this year, and state courts are "woefully underfunded."

"Last year, 42 states out of 50 cut court funding," Robinson said. "We're working very hard on this issue. It's a key issue for the economy overall as we try to pull ourselves out of this economic downturn."

He said the second component is that an adequately funded court system is a key to the country's constitutional democracy, which is what makes it unique. Robinson said the public needs to be

aware of the issue, which is why the bar association is reaching out to civic organizations and asking citizens to stand up for the courts.

Determining what is adequate funding, Robinson said is unique to every state, but that most leaders would agree that it is inadequate when judges do not get a cost-of-living increase for 12 years, court-houses are shut down early or closed altogether, and judicial vacancies are not filled.

He wants to emphasize that the adequate funding of courts is important not just to lawyers and judges, but to all citizens in every community across the coun-

See **ROBINSON** page 10

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# Adolph J. Rodenbeck Award: Community improvement a focus for Feldman

By **NORA A. JONES**

Special to The Daily Record

Robert A. Feldman was only 10 years into his legal career when he helped the intervenors/appellants prevail in *Matter of Di Sano v. Storandt*, 22 AD2d 6 (Fourth Dept. 1964). At trial, parents of School 40 students succeeded in enjoining the Board of Education and Superintendent of Rochester Schools from implementing an open enrollment program intended to correct the racial imbalance. On appeal, Feldman and others helped make history as the trial decision was reversed.

Many of Feldman's later accomplishments may have had more visibility, but this case demonstrates how even from the start, Feldman dedicated his career to generating community responsibility and improving the administration of justice.

## The early years

A native of Rochester, Feldman was the son of a Russian immigrant who had a modest education and a strong work ethic. A friend and business colleague of his father helped pave the way for the younger Feldman to attend college and go on to law school.

After graduating from Brighton High School, Feldman enrolled at Harvard College, earning a degree in economics before pursuing his LL.B. at Yale Law School, graduating in 1954. Between college and law school, Feldman served on the staff of the general counsel to the U.S. War Claims Commission in Washington, D.C.

As a new admittee to the New York bar, Feldman returned to Rochester, joining the firm of Sutherland, Linowitz & Williams.

"My salary went from \$40 a week to \$75 a week when I passed the bar," he laughed. "It was hot and the offices of Sutherland, Linowitz and Williams were not air conditioned."

In 1959 he went to work for the firm of Antell, Potter & Harris where he practiced for several years, participating in several Jewish community projects, which helped him win the Benjamin Goldstein Memorial Leadership Award in 1962 at the age of 33.

A few years later, City Manager Seymour Scher sought out Feldman to serve as corporation counsel under Mayor Frank Lamb, where he served from 1967-1970.

## Career continues

Following his stint as corporation counsel, Feldman became a partner in



VASILY BAZUK

the firm Levy, Feldman & Licata, and served as a trustee for the Monroe County Bar Association, becoming MCBA president in 1982.

As president-elect, Feldman became involved in the fight to save the Legal Services Corp. and traveled to Washington with other bar leaders to lobby for funding. In 1983, he became the first chairman of the board of directors for the Volunteer Legal Services Project.

Ensuring access to legal services for low and moderate income citizens was a

continuous goal as Feldman developed his own career. His interest in the betterment of the community was instrumental in his role in taking the transit system from private to public ownership.

As senior counsel at Ward Greenberg Heller & Reidy LLP, Feldman doesn't seem to be thinking about retirement. His many years of experience in tax assessment, eminent domain, alternative dispute resolution and professional liability continue to make him a valuable resource.

See **FELDMAN** page 10

## HARTER SECRET & EMERY LLP



We are proud to celebrate Law Day 2012 and its role in underscoring the importance of the courts and their role in ensuring access to justice for all Americans.



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# Humanitarian Award: Bauer dedicated to legal education, public service

By **CHRISTINE ADAMO**  
Special to The Daily Record

Bill Bauer, a partner at Woods Oviatt Gilman, LLP and program coordinator for the Sydney R. Reuben Mock Trial Competition, is the recipient of the Monroe County Bar Foundation's 2012 Humanitarian Award.

Established in 2003, the award recognizes individuals and organizations serving Monroe County in a way that exemplifies the charitable and humane purposes of the foundation itself.

"I'm incredibly honored [to be considered] for this award," Bauer said, "especially in the area of legal education – which I feel so strongly about. But, the real substance of this award goes to the participants, teachers, judges and lawyers who donate their time to [the Reuben mock trial] program."

Bauer took over as coordinator when founder and former advisor Peter Knapp announced plans to step down in 2003. Six years later, Knapp presented Bauer with the New York State Bar Association's Law, Youth & Citizenship Program 2009 Distinguished Attorney Award, in part for what he had already done to expand the program's countywide reach.

"The emotional aspect of receiving the [Humanitarian] Award, from my standpoint, is that the mock trial program gets

[added] recognition and support from so many people," Bauer said. "I'm happy to give the Reuben family recognition for its support of the program, as well.

"[It] provides a tremendous opportunity for students to experience what it's like to be a lawyer or to be involved in a lawsuit," Bauer added. "More importantly, [it helps them] research and think out a position, stand up and present it to others and then be questioned and respond to it. No matter what path you take in life, those are just invaluable skills."

While advancing legal education is a skill Bauer possesses, which meets one criterion for Humanitarian Award selection, his work and commitment to community fulfill the others. Partners, colleagues and friends have voiced respect for Bauer's knowledge, boundless energy and skills – noting that he carries out legal, civic and charitable endeavors fueled by a passion for the law, responsiveness to public interest, and desire to see justice administered in ways that encourage understanding and involvement.

After graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in political science and history from SUNY Brockport, Bauer received his law degree from Albany Law School of Union University. He served as a confidential law clerk for the Hon. Michael A. Telesca, senior U.S. District Court judge for the Western District



VASILY BAZUK

of New York, before joining Woods Oviatt Gilman in 1984.

"Anybody who's ever had the benefit of working with Judge Telesca will say there's no better mentor. He is one of the most remarkable human beings you'll ever meet [and] there are countless lives he's touched and affected – both personally and professionally. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have had that opportunity," Bauer said.

In 1999, Bauer left Woods Oviatt Gilman to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge. In 2003, he rejoined the firm. He now serves as a partner in the Labor & Employment and Litigation departments, where he concentrates his practice in

general business and civil litigation. He is also active in court-sponsored and private, alternate dispute resolution activities.

Additionally, he represents prisoners' rights before federal courts through the Volunteer Legal Services Program.

"The Western District of New York has a tremendous amount of correctional facilities within its borders [and] prisoners generate a great deal of work in the federal court in their efforts to address what they consider to be illegal policies or procedures within correctional facilities," Bauer said.

One such case required addressing the prisoner-mail screening process,

*See BAUER page 11*

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# Outstanding Jurist Award: A distinguished career for Justice Van Strydonck

By **NORA A. JONES**  
Special to The Daily Record

After completing his undergraduate degree, the Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck wasn't sure what he wanted to do, but he had all the bases covered: He'd been accepted to law school, medical school and an MBA program.

As he receives the 2012 Outstanding Jurist Award at this year's Law Day luncheon, those in attendance will celebrate his distinguished career as a lawyer and Supreme Court justice.

### Education and career

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Windsor (Ontario, Canada), Justice Van Strydonck attended the State University at Buffalo School of Law. However, after one year of law school, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving four years as a division officer in duty stations from Vietnam to Brooklyn.

The draft was a concern to many at that time, and Justice Van Strydonck had known his number would be coming up, so he proactively enlisted, serving full time from 1967-1971. He remained in the reserves for another 17 years as a commanding officer, overseeing five naval re-

serve units.

Returning to UB Law School in the fall of 1971, he completed his J.D. in 1973. He secured a job at the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, and once he was admitted to the bar in 1974, worked as an assistant district attorney for five years.

From there he joined a civil litigation firm, now known as Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina PC.

"It was a firm that did not require billable hours," he said. "And joining a firm in civil litigation was very different from my work at the DA's office."

He became a partner and served as the managing partner of the firm for most of the 1990s. In 1998, Gov. George E. Pataki appointed Justice Van Strydonck to the Supreme Court in the Seventh Judicial District. He then ran for the position he was filling, securing the 14-year term he will complete at the end of 2012.

In 2000, then-Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman appointed Justice Van Strydonck to the position of administrative judge of the Seventh Judicial District. Announcing the appointment, Judge Lippman referred to Justice Van Strydonck as "an enormously skilled, fair, and productive jurist ... [who] has demonstrated great leadership ability throughout his professional career, as well as in numerous civil pursuits."

He continued in that leadership role through 2011, carrying a full caseload at the same time. With over 500 employees working for the Seventh Judicial District, Justice Van Strydonck acknowledged that being administrative judge takes a unique skill set.

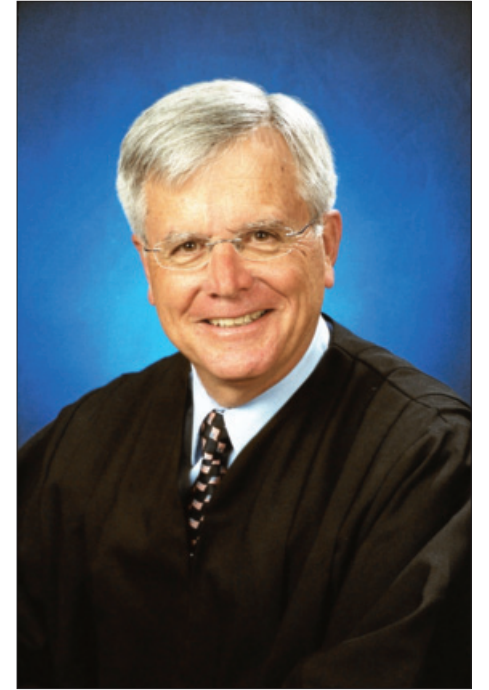
### In the community

"Law is a profession that offers many opportunities to reach out to the community," Justice Van Strydonck said.

And he has demonstrated that fact.

Justice Van Strydonck has a lengthy list of volunteer contributions within the legal community including serving as Monroe County Bar Association president in 1988-1989. He is a past president of Volunteer Legal Services Project, the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar and Pre-Trial Release Services Corp., and is a founding member of the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center, now known as the Rochester Office of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He has also been active in the Veteran's Outreach Program.

Over the years Justice Van Strydonck has lectured at the Rape Crisis Center and Monroe Community College. He has also contributed generously to MCBA continuing education programs.

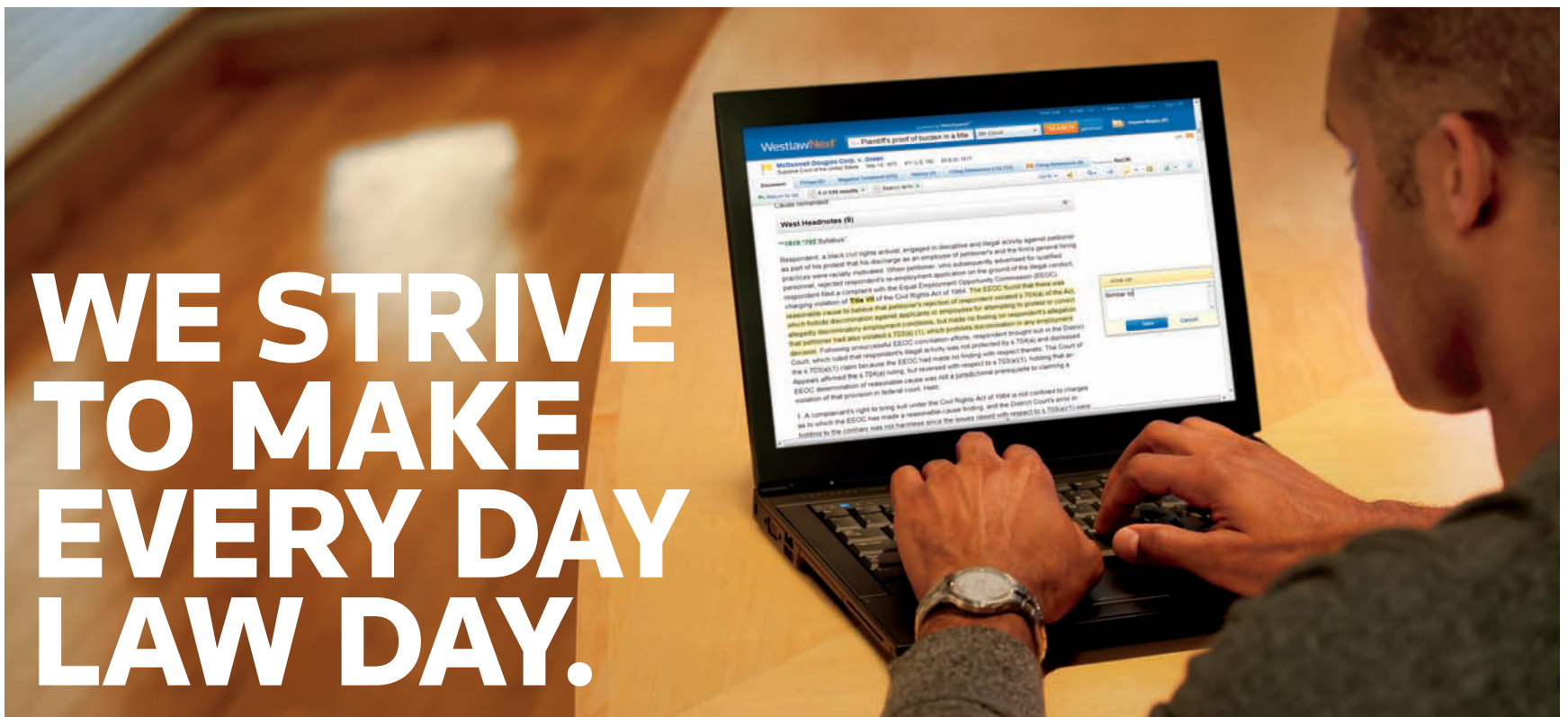


In 2007, UB Law School recognized Justice Van Strydonck for his "conscientious and diligent performance in the judiciary."

### Advice

Talking about how he might advise those still in school or seeking career guidance, he suggested they don't listen to the hype about law not being the same as it used to be.

See **VAN STRYDONCK** page 11



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# James R. Boyle Award for Child Advocacy: Houde recognized for contributions to Legal Aid

By **CHRISTINE ADAMO**

Special to The Daily Record

Locally, Law Day celebrates the work, life and legacy of those committed to ensuring justice for all Rochesterians – the most vulnerable among them being the city's children.

Since 2002, the James R. Boyle Award for Child Advocacy has been presented annually to individuals and organizations advocating on behalf of Rochester's young, working to protect their rights and helping to advance children's services.

This year's recipient is Ardeth L. Houde, whose career has spanned more than 30 years.

"We're honoring Ardeth for her contributions to the Legal Aid Society of Rochester and her outstanding work throughout her legal career," said Alan Harris, Legal Aid Society president and CEO.

Harris spearheaded the creation of the award in honor of James R. Boyle who, shortly after joining the organization in 1962, became Monroe County's first Law Guardian – now referred to as an Attorney for the Child.

Houde says her foray into family law was inspired and facilitated by Boyle himself.

"This award is very, very meaningful to

me because of the work I did and because of my admiration for Jim Boyle," she explained. "I would call him a tremendous mentor."

Houde received both a Bachelor of Science in law and her Juris Doctor from the University of Utah School of Law.



**HOUDE**

"Going to law school wasn't easy in 1953," she added. "I was the only woman in my class."

After completing her studies, in 1957, she married and then moved to Rochester with her husband, Robert – who had accepted a position as an engineer with General Dynamics.

"I took the New York state bar exam, in 1959, which I passed. But, at the time, it was almost impossible to get a job as a woman," Houde noted.

Houde, in part, credits Betty Friedan's 1963 nonfiction work promoting gender equality, "The Feminine Mystique," for increasing her job prospects in the field of law after its publication.

In 1974, Houde joined the Legal Aid Society at Boyle's suggestion. She even-

tually worked with him as a Law Guardian – providing Family Court representation for children involved in juvenile delinquency, custody, neglect and related proceedings. Her workload was tremendous, but she relished the opportunity to help develop that area of law.

"Ardeth arrived at our office at a time when there weren't many female attorneys on staff," explained Stephen Weisbeck, director of the organization's Juvenile Justice Division. "The decision to present this award to her was made by our management team to recognize her long standing work representing children, the excellent work she did her in our office and her excellence in handling appeals."

Houde, he said, is well-recognized in the legal community as an experienced, hard-working, detail-oriented and tenacious attorney who is truly versed in the law.

"Appeal work requires dealing with voluminous records and transcripts," Weisbeck said. "Ardeth is adept at digging into those records, getting all of the facts from below [at the trial level] and advocating for her clients during the appeal process to achieve positive outcomes."

When an appellate position was created in the organization's Juvenile Justice Division, Houde accepted it – serving in

the Appellate Division, Fourth Department and the state Court of Appeals from 1991 to 2009.

During that time, she further established herself as an attorney committed to juvenile justice by helping to organize and serving as chair of the Monroe County Bar Association's Juvenile Law Committee and Monroe County Placement Committee.

Despite prevailing concepts about natural parents retaining custody of their children – no matter the circumstances – Houde says there are cases in which people unable to assume their parental roles should not be allowed to do so.

"[Children] need the most concern," she explained, "particularly in custody cases where parents are more involved in their own issues than how they will affect their children."

Working on divorce cases can, therefore, be difficult. So can remaining objective in cases involving child neglect and abuse.

"I always wanted to be on the right side [of the equation]," Houde said. "That, to me, meant taking measures to ensure children's security and futures."

"Yet, most lawyers are expected to [be] unemotional ... and while I have a great fondness for my own children, I generally

See **HOUDE** page 11

because  
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As we celebrate Law Day, we're proud to be part of such a caring, giving legal community.

# William E. McKnight Award: VLSP honors attorneys' commitment to 'pro bono'

By **LUCIA A. WALINCHUS**

Special to The Daily Record

William McKnight's life tragically ended at age 36, but his legacy giving back to the legal community lives on at the institution he helped to build. Today the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Rochester recognizes five attorneys with the McKnight Award for exceptional commitment to *pro bono* service.

"Rochester is the envy of many other cities when it comes to the generosity of attorneys," said VLSP Executive Director Sheila Gaddis. "VLSP makes every effort to provide litigators and non-litigators with opportunities to serve the community and meet New York's 20-hour *pro bono* goal. And every time we ask, which is often, attorneys step up to the plate."

This year's winners include Patrice Morrison of Nixon Peabody, LLP; Robert F. O'Connell of Petralia, Webb and O'Connell PC; F. Paul Greene and David J. Wilks (both from Harter, Secrest & Emery LLP); and Frank Howard, a solo

practitioner.

Due to lack of resources, only 20 percent of low-income individuals actually receive the civil legal services that they need, according to the 2011 report of New York's Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services. Therefore, it's hard to choose just a few of the 700 attorneys who volunteer each year, Gaddis said, since every one makes a difference.

Each year a committee of the VLSP board of directors considers candidates nominated by staff attorneys. They take into account the numbers of hours worked, the length of the commitment, and the complexity of the legal issues involved. They then decide on three to six winners, Gaddis said, keeping in mind contributions from solo practitioners, corporate attorneys, and those at large firms.

#### Patrice Morrison

Morrison is an American University Law grad and Georgetown tax alum who

has called Rochester home for the past 25 years. She said she was surprised and humbled when she learned she was a winner.



**MORRISON**

So it seems to have come full circle to receive this award," she said.

In the past 10 years Morrison has donated almost 250 hours of her time to the VLSP. In one case, she helped a mother of three children change their family's names right before her abusive ex-husband got out of jail for a 1998 murder.

She has taken a lot of name change cases, in order to try to streamline the process at the VLSP. Morrison said that especially after 9/11, there is a lot more

scrutiny over having names match perfectly, which can cause clients a lot of stress.

"It seems to me like, really the reactions of the clients, when you tell them that finally everything has been straightened out, I would say a huge percentage of them start crying, because finally this huge problem has been taken care of, and that's really enough of a reward to see how happy they are to see a problem solved," she said.

#### Frank Howard

Howard is a SUNY Buffalo law grad, originally from Minneapolis, who now takes on a variety of cases at his own practice. Howard said volunteering for VLSP was a rewarding experience because it increased his appreciation of the community, his experience in the courts, and it even brought in a few referrals.

"Lawyers have an obligation to do a certain amount of *pro bono* work, and

*Continued on next page*

## LAW DAY 2012

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April 24, 2012



### PROUDLY SALUTES 2012 AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### Adolph J. Rodenbeck Award

*Robert A. Feldman, Esq.*

#### Humanitarian Award

*William G. Bauer, Esq.*

#### Outstanding Jurist Award

*Hon. Thomas M. Van Strydonck*

#### James R. Boyle Award

*Ardeth L. Houde, Esq.*

#### William E. McKnight Award

*F. Paul Greene, Esq.*

*Frank J. Howard, Esq.*

*Patrice B. Morrison, Esq.*

*Robert F. O'Connell, Esq.*

*David J. Wilks, Esq.*

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Tuesday, May 1, 2012

that's to make legal services more available," he said. "The cost of legal services can be a barrier, so effectively that limits people's freedom in some ways."



**HOWARD**

In the past 10 years, Howard has spent approximately 245 hours on *pro bono* cases for the VLSP, including complex divorce and custody arrangement cases. Howard said another advantage to working with VLSP is that on difficult cases he was able to consult with other lawyers and collaborate with them.

"I would really like to encourage other solo practitioners to take the plunge with it. It's been very beneficial to me, I'm very happy with it," he said.

**F. Paul Greene & David J. Wilks**

Greene is a Rochester native and Fordham law grad who currently works at Harter, Secrest & Emery with Wilks, who grew up in Albany and later attended Cornell law. Greene and Wilks

shared responsibility on an overwhelmingly complex family law case that was brought to their attention by the firm's *pro bono* coordinator.



**GREENE**

Since they took the case in 2010, Greene spent 386 hours and Wilks approximately 300 hours as they tirelessly worked to restore rights to a rehabilitated parent, even taking it to the appellate level.



**WILKS**

"From my point of view, one of the biggest goals in *pro bono* representation is making sure the client gets his or her day in court. For underserved populations it's often a frustrating experience to deal with the legal system, and unless they have someone to help out, they're lost," Greene said.

Greene said he could never have done so much without a lot of support from VLSP and also at his law firm. Despite the fact that the firm gets no money from VLSP clients, it allows him to count his services for them toward his "billable hour" quota, he said.

Wilks also described the case as a rewarding experience.

"I haven't been licensed all that long," said Wilks, who was admitted to the bar last year. "It's really been a chance for me to cut my teeth on a lot of these things. It was a chance for me to make court appearances, to write motions, to negotiate with opposing counsel. So career-wise there was a lot of benefit. But I also think there's a benefit from helping someone who otherwise wouldn't be able to retain a lawyer or wouldn't be able to pursue their rights so vigorously."

**Robert F. O'Connell**

O'Connell is a Rochester native who attended Gonzaga Law and got his masters in tax law from the University of Florida. He has volunteered with VLSP for the past 21 years, taking on cases such as wills, standby guardianship, tax mat-

ters and Habitat for Humanity real estate closings. For example, he has helped several clients diagnosed with AIDS or cancer with preparing their wills, in some cases even going to their house. In total, he has handled 26 cases over the years, donating 48 hours of his time.

Since had to prepare several trust, estate and personal tax returns, O'Connell unfortunately was unable to be interviewed for this article.



**O'CONNELL**

However, he was able to share a little bit, via email, about what motivated him to donate his time.

"As far as what inspired me to volunteer my services, I would have to say that it goes back to the way I was raised. I have six siblings and in a family that size, you learn the importance of sharing," he said. "The clients are always appreciative and grateful for the assistance. It helps make a difference in their lives and that is very satisfying to me."

# Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP®

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Congratulations to our Colleague  
Bill Bauer, the 2012  
Humanitarian Award Winner.

We salute you for your on-going  
support of legal education and your  
commitment to improving the  
administration of justice.



# ABA President Robinson

■ **ROBINSON** from page 3

try, including those in Monroe County.

Robinson said average citizens can call their legislators or email them to let them know they do not consider the lack of funding to be an acceptable situation.

He said most people are fortunate and do not use emergency services, but that police stations and firehouses are considered critically important to the quality of life. Robinson said the court system is the nation's emergency room and that the courts are equally important.

Getting better funding for LSC was part of the reason more than 300 lawyers were in Washington last Wednesday to speak to their congressional representatives as part of the annual ABA Day, an event now in its 16th year.

Lawyers were also educating lawmakers on the need for reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and co-sponsorship of the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act, the latter of which would help victims rebuild their lives and provide revenue to struggling state courts by intercepting tax returns of scofflaws.

Law Day 2012 marked the first time representatives from all 50 states took part.

Robinson is in Rochester at the invitation of the MCBA and his longtime friend, Tony Palermo, of counsel, Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP.

They met in the 1980s when Palermo was serving on the ABA's board of governors and was a liaison to its Tort and In-

surance Practice Group.

"I happened to see this couple who were at the meeting who seemed to be alone and I went over," Palermo recalled. "We have become lifetime friends. Bill gives me credit for being the first person on the ABA board to speak to him personally."



**PALERMO**

Robinson, a member-in-charge of the Northern Kentucky offices of Frost Brown Todd LLC, and his wife, Joan, get together with Tony and Mary Ann Palermo at least twice a year at ABA mid-year and annual meetings.

Palermo said Robinson had invited him to attend the Kentucky Derby one year, but he had another engagement.

The Palermos recently hosted the Robinsons in Florida where they watched the Final Four of the NCAA national college basketball tournament, which the University of Kentucky won, making Robinson a very happy man.

"He's a distinguished litigator," Palermo said of his friend. "He's articulate, sincere, warm and friendly. We've both been very active in bar services and activities."

Palermo is a member and past president of the Monroe County and New York State bar associations.

"The Monroe County Bar Association is one of the finest bars in the state, if not the world," he said he told Robinson. "I told him, 'You've got to come see how we operate and we would be deeply honored if you would come.' He said, 'You bet, I'd be happy to.'"

—denise.champagne@nydailyrecord.com

## Rodenbeck Award

■ **FELDMAN** from page 4

### Family

With his first wife, Feldman raised four children: Michael, Jonathan, Thomas and Margaret. Michael is a professor at Boston University; the Hon. Jonathan Feldman serves as magistrate judge for the Western District of New York; Thomas serves in hospital administration and recently moved to the Boston area; and Margaret runs her own

animal care business in Cape Cod.

Many in the local legal community also remember Feldman's second wife, Nancy Dillman Peck. Peck attended law school later in life, serving as a role model for many women. She lost her battle with brain cancer in 2010. They were married 28 years.

### Outside the office

"For 22 years, there were four of us

who played tennis every Saturday morning," Feldman recalled. Admitting his lack of interest in golf, he went on to stress how important walking has been to his overall fitness.

"You're still likely to see me taking a stroll along East Avenue," he said.

Anyone who has known Feldman for any length of time probably knows that he is a big Boston Red Sox fan. His passion for the team materialized as he finished his undergraduate degree at Harvard.

"I had one Spanish course I needed to complete at Harvard to earn my undergraduate degree cum laude," he noted. "With a morning study program, I spent several weeks going from Spanish

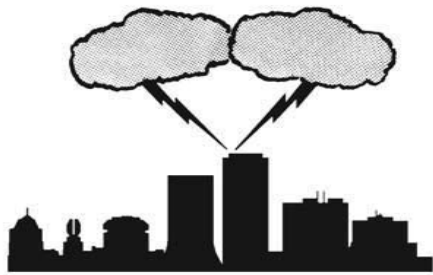
lessons to Red Sox games. It was wonderful sitting high in the bleachers watching a great team play."

His love of the Red Sox has only grown since the 1950s.

Feldman has always been a voracious reader and continues to read everything from The New York Times to murder mysteries. In recent years, he has even adapted to reading on a Nook.

"Both in the practice of law and in my personal life, I have had a lot of fun doing all kinds of different things," Feldman said. "And Rochester is a great community, with an extraordinary collection of legal professionals."

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# Humanitarian Award

■ BAUER from page 5

which was intended to stop gang-related material from being delivered and was backed up by disciplinary action.

"A prisoner was disciplined for [having in his possession, in his cell], what a correctional officer believed to be 'gang'-re-

lated material ... but it was ultimately determined by the Second Circuit that the policy and definition of 'gang' material was unconstitutionally vague," Bauer said.

By challenging the system, the prisoner had his record expunged and the

Department of Corrections was ordered to modify its related rules and regulations.

"That was a direct First Amendment issue - freedom of speech," he said.

"[That kind of] *pro bono* work ... gives the private bar an opportunity to assist the court in dealing with its large caseload and what can be - often - significant or serious constitutional issues."

Since 2009, Bauer has been a member of the Advisory Committee on the local

rules of practice for the Western District of New York, and a member of the NYSBA Special Committee on Standards for Pleading and Federal Litigation.

He appears in the current edition of "The Best Lawyers in America," lectures on matters regarding federal court practice and is admitted to practice before the courts of New York state, U.S. District Courts (Western & Northern districts) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

# Outstanding Jurist

■ VAN STRYDONCK from page 6

"Tune out any of the negative comments about becoming a lawyer," he said. "Law is a profession that allows you to switch jobs but stay in the same career. Having the opportunity to practice in different areas keeps you fresh, and the rewards are tremendous."

### Home and family

Justice Van Strydonck and his wife Susanne, married since 1972, have two children, Sara and Jerry, who are pursuing their own careers - Sara as an assistant district attorney in Rochester, and Jerry as a professional poker player in Florida.

Although his wife retired from her career with the Department of Social Services, she remains involved in the Baby Safe Sleep Coalition, dedicated to educating parents on common practices that pose a threat to child safety.

The proximity to the Finger Lakes has been an important ingredient in the Van Strydoncks' family life. The judge and his wife also enjoy the Rochester International Jazz Festival - they've attended every year so far.

The Van Strydoncks took a river cruise in Holland and Northern Belgium a few years ago and look forward to more time to travel in the future.

# James R. Boyle Award

■ HOUDE from page 7

feel all children deserve to have a caring parent," she added. "When they're unlucky enough not to have one, they really need help."

Houde said she left the Legal Aid Society in 2009, but continues to work

- when assigned - on Family Court and appellate cases. She serves on the Assigned Counsel and Attorney for the Child panels and also maintains memberships in the MCBA, NYSBA and the Family Law Section of the ABA.

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